

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

**TESTIMONY  
OF THE  
CONNECTICUT CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION  
U.S. SENATORS RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CHRISTOPHER MURPHY  
U.S. CONGRESSMEN JOHN LARSON, JOE COURTNEY, ROSA DELAURO  
JIM HIMES AND JAHANA HAYES  
BEFORE THE LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 7, 2019**

We commend the Labor and Public Employees Committee for holding a hearing on several bills that raise the minimum wage in the state of Connecticut: Senate Bill 2; House Bill 5004 and House Bill 7191.

Raising the minimum wage is a critical, common sense means of ensuring that workers can make a liveable wage to help achieve the American Dream of providing adequate housing and education for themselves and their families.

Millions of Americans currently live – and work – in poverty. High costs of housing and education as well as basic living expenses demand that the minimum wage increase commensurately with those costs.

The minimum wage was established to provide a fair, liveable baseline of income for those who work. That principle has been steadily eroded over time by inflation. Increasing cost of living coupled with a stagnant minimum wage has resulted in those working in low paying jobs falling farther and farther behind.

Failure to keep pace with increasing costs means we have also failed to keep the original promise of liveable wages to our constituents.

We support increasing the minimum wage at the federal level to \$15 per hour and urge the committee's careful consideration of an appropriate adjustment at the state level.